AIR POUCH
PRIORITY

OFFICIAL USE ONLY
(Security Classification)

DO NOT TYPE IN THIS SPACE
745H.00/7-155
845H.00

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : AMCONGEN, LAGOS, NIGERIA

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON

DESPATCH NO. 85

July 1, 1955
DATE

REF :

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	DEBT	INFO
2	NEA-4	RM/R-2	A/REP-2 OIR-6 E-4 P-1 IO-4
	RECD 7-14	DATE	OTHER Comp-10 IN-7 Agr CIA-5 TAR-2

SUBJECT: Bi-weekly Review - June 16 through June 30

POLITICAL

Midwest State (UNCLASSIFIED)

Political activity seeking the creation of a Benin-Delta State in the Western Region continues (See D-183, p.2). The secretary of the Benin-Delta People's Party (B.D.P.P.) announced that he had corresponded with the NCNC in an effort to receive that party's formal support for the BDPP at the 1956 constitutional convention. Meanwhile the position of AKENZUA II, Oba of Benin, was not altogether clear as, in face of considerable opposition from his Benin subjects, he reaffirmed his willingness to accept a ministerial appointment from the Western Regional Government.

COMMENT (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

Although the Action Group could eliminate most of the NCNC political strength in the West by shedding the Benin-Delta provinces, there is no constitutional process for so doing before next year's convention. If, as seems increasingly probable, the West holds elections before the conference convenes, the Benin opposition votes will be reflected in the composition of the Western House.

Support for the Oba's recent excursion into politics depends upon tribal allegiance coupled with what political support he can find among the new politicians. As at Oyo, another traditional tribal chief finds himself increasingly dependent upon men whose allegiance he cannot command and whose melieu is alien to the Oba's court. Akenzua backed the losing local political faction during the recent Federal elections and has spent the last few months attempting to obtain influence over the ascendant group and to bring both parties into the ranks of the Benin Delta People's Party.

WKCromwell/me
REPORTER

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

ACTION COPY - DEPARTMENT OF STATE

The action office must return this permanent record copy to DC/R files with an endorsement of action taken.

REVIEWED BY DEPARTMENT OF STATE
RDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
TS AUTH.
ENDOR EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☐
RELEASE DENIALS
FOI EXEMPTIONS

This Document Must be Returned to DC/R Central Files

745H.00/7-155

FILED
SEP 14 1955
L-WC

OFFICIAL USE ONLY.
(Classification)

Awolowo's Speech (UNCLASSIFIED)

At an Ibadan reception for the new Governor General, Sir James ROBERTSON, Western Premier/Chief Obafemi AWOLOWO commented on the West's attitude toward Nigeria's constitution. Awolowo stated that the "foundation of lasting unity" has been "well laid" under the present constitution and that Nigeria's size and diversity required the present degree of regional autonomy. He declared that the Western Region was satisfied with the present constitution, subject, however, to "some modifications" which he said would be raised at the 1956 conference. Defending the present degree of regional powers, Awolowo declared that both Australia and the U. S. operated under constitutions which delegated more powers to their states than are enjoyed by the Nigerian Regions.

Awolowo commented "Any attempt to disturb the present structure in any fundamental manner, or to revert (sic) the present relationship between the Federation and the Regions, will only lead to adverse consequences, the scope and extent of which I am not here to predict." Although he undoubtedly was emphasizing the West's determination that no residual powers would be surrendered to the Federal Government, Awolowo's statement was played up by the NCNC as evidence that the AG would not support the creation of another Western State.

The Dynamic Party (UNCLASSIFIED)

Amid the many "Self-government in 1956" resolutions and statements by AG and NCNC leaders, a refreshingly different note is struck by Ibadan University professor Chike OBI's Dynamic Party. Dr. Obi campaigns under the slogan "Are we ready for self-government in 1956? If your answer is 'No', vote for the Dynamic Party." In recent weeks Dr. Obi has circulated political broadsides advocating "the complete dissolution of the Regions in '56", universal adult sufferage in country-wide elections, and a firm negative to the suggested idea that Queen Elizabeth visit Nigeria next year.

COMMENT (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

Dr. Obi has little or no political following outside the University campus at Ibadan. Almost completely ignored by the NCNC, he does raise embarrassing issues for the AG and often generates sufficient noise to obtain spirited albeit condescending replies from AG editorialists.

NEPU Delegation to Visit UK (UNCLASSIFIED)

Malam AMINU Kano, President-General of the Northern Elements' Progressive Union (NEPU), announced in Enugu that he will lead a 5-man party delegation to the Colonial Office demanding abolition of the North's

of the North's electoral college system and introduction of a uniform suffrage electoral law throughout Nigeria. Malam Aminu stated that the delegation would leave in September and would comprise Malam Bukar ZUKOGI, Malam Yoma BANA, Maram SHEHU and Mr. E.A.NWAJEI.

Pilgrimage Arrangements (UNCLASSIFIED)

The Federal Government has announced that it will finance three Nigerian pilgrim representatives to look after the welfare of Nigerian pilgrims during July and August, the heaviest months of travel. The representatives, all of whom are Northern Government officials, will be stationed in Jidda and will be responsible for meeting Nigerian pilgrims and caring for their arrangements while in Saudi Arabia.

COMMENT (UNCLASSIFIED)

Pressure to aid for the large number of Nigerian pilgrims arose after the recent trip by the Sardauna of Sokoto and the Emir of Kano (D-167,p.3).

KNC Claims Northern Cameroons (UNCLASSIFIED)

An "emergency convention" of the Kameroun National Congress (KNC) has condemned a recent statement of the Northern Region's Premier, the Sardauna of Sokoto, who had said that the Northern Cameroonians had chosen to merge with the Northern Region (D-183, p.2-3). The convention's release declared that "there are indications that the Northern Cameroonians wish to be united with us in the South" and stated that the Sardauna should not have so confidently predicted the future of the Trust Territory since a U.N. referendum is scheduled to be held to determine jurisdictional questions and the possibility of ultimate self-government for the area.

COMMENT (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

Although neither the ConGen nor the Nigerian Government has received details of the U.N. Trusteeship Council's present meeting, it is not believed that the KNC has any valid basis for its reference to a referendum. Neither the Southern nor Northern Cameroons is politically or administratively ready for such a step. But the announcement is another indication (See D-159,p.3) that the Cameroonian political leaders are interested in U.N. intervention.

Njoku May Become London Commissioner (UNCLASSIFIED)

The AG press has predicted that R.A.NJOKU, NCNC Federal Minister of Trade and Industry, will be appointed as Nigerian Commissioner in the United Kingdom. The paper stated that the nomination of

nomination of H. O. DAVIES (See D-147, P.4) had been rejected by the NPC members of the Council of Ministers and declared that Njoku's appointment is desired by the NCNC leaders whose relations with the Minister had become increasingly strained of late.

COMMENT (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

Njoku, who is now in the UK on a fact-finding mission (See Economic, below), is probably the Council of Minister's most scholarly and urbane member. While on the Council he has kept himself fairly clear of NCNC politicing, and was not elected to high party office at the last NCNC National Convention. His selection as Commissioner would create a ministerial vacancy which would be difficult to fill.

LABOR

Nigerian Labor Delegation. (UNCLASSIFIED)

Members of the Nigerian labor delegation to the Geneva ILO (D-171, p.5) have returned to Lagos with the exception of Gogo Chu NZERIBE, Workers' delegate from ANTUF. It has been announced that Nzeribe will remain in London to confer with TUC Representatives.

COMMENT (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

In a discussion with the reporting officer, Mr. Foggon, Federal Commissioner of Labor, declared that he was encouraged by the performance of the Nigerian delegation at Geneva, and was especially pleased by the reception given Minister F.S.OKOTIE-EBOH's address to the plenary session.

He said that Nzeribe had clearly shown his left wing sympathies but had not been given the opportunity to record them as official pronouncements of the Nigerian labor-movement.

Gorsuch Report (UNCLASSIFIED)

The Federal Government has released the text of the Gorsuch Commission's wage findings(D-183,p.5). The lengthy report (which will be the subject of a separate despatch) recommends varying increases in the salaries of government workers (averaging approximately 15%) and urges the substitution of a variable "inducement addition" to replace the present allowances paid expatriate officials.

COMMENT (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

A Government labor official has indicated that he expects some difficulty in obtaining Eastern and Western agreement for several items, notable those relative to increases for senior positions and expatriate allowances.

ECONOMIC

Petroleum Developments (UNCLASSIFIED)

Shell D'Arcy has encountered a high pressure gas pocked in its drilling at Akukwa in the Onitsha Province of the Eastern Region. Drilling on the site commenced in the beginning of June with a 12,000 foot rig recently employed for test holes near Benin. After a section of the nearby Onitsha-Enugu road had been closed and a neighboring village evacuated, the gas was diverted and flared, but efforts to cap the well have not as yet proved successful.

Another well is being drilled in Oloibiri, a sparsely settled district of the Niger Delta. The company has announced that it has taken seven months to transport the derrick and drilling equipment to the site and that communication can be maintained only by helicopter or an 18-hour trip by shallow draft river launch from Calabar.

Cocoa Crop (UNCLASSIFIED)

The Federal Government has released cumulative cocoa purchases for the 1954/55 marketing season up to June 9:

	Main Crop (Tons)	Light Crop (Tons)
Western Region	64,652	9,855
Eastern Region	866	4
Northern Region	321	43
Southern Cameroons	2,586	1
Total	68,425	9,903

Njoku in London

At the press conference which he gave in London, Federal Minister for Trade and Industry R.A. NJOKU noted that Nigeria achieved a 30% favorable balance of trade in 1954, as compared to a positive 15% for the year previous. Njoku stated that the purpose of his trip was to gather information to help fashion Nigerian overseas trade policy which was a Federal responsibility, as contrasted to the Regions' obligations for internal trade. He said that Nigeria would further foreign investment subject to the Federal Government's approval, and spoke of a planned National Economic Gouncil which would coordinate the establishment of industries where the cooperation of Regional Governments was necessary from the standpoint of the over all Nigerian economy.

When asked about joint Nigeria-Gold Coast economic planning, Njoku replied that although there are as yet no schemes in operation, both territories consult regularly on matters of common economic interest.

Nigerian Railway Corporation (UNCLASSIFIED)

At the first meeting of the newly-constituted Nigerian Railway Corporation (D-155, p.6), Chairman R. B. EMERSON announced that the board will not exercise executive powers until the formal vesting of the corporation, which is tentatively scheduled for October 1, 1955. Apart from the chairman, nine of the 12 members have been chosen:

1. Chief S. L. AKINTOLA - The Leader of the Opposition in the Federal House of Representatives
2. Mr. C. A. DOVE - The Chairman of the Nigerian Ports Authority
3. Mr. F. O. AWOSIKA - The Former Federal Minister of Works
4. Mr. H. A. P. NWANA - The Secretary of the Nigerian Union of Railwaymen
5. Mr. M. A. TOKUNBOH - Industrial Relations Advisor
6. Mr. A. H. YOUNG - Chairman, Nigerian Central Marketing Board
7. Mr. L. C. DALDREY - President, Barclay's Bank
8. Mr. E. C. EALEY - United Africa Company
9. Mr. M. N. UGOCHUKWU - Lagos Business man.

Federal and Regional Finances for 1954 (UNCLASSIFIED)

Financial balance sheets of the Federal and Regional governments for the period April through December 31, 1954 reveal that revenue exceeded expenditures in each of the accounts. The Southern Cameroons are not shown since their accounts were not separately administered until October 1, 1954.

	Revenue (millions of £)	Expenditures (millions of £)
Federal	44.7	42.0
East	5.9	3.7
West	6.7	5.7
North	7.3	5.7

Education proved the highest item of expenditure for both East and West, which spent £1.4 million and £2.5 million, respectively. £32.4 million of the government's revenue was obtained from customs and excise tax, while the principal regional source of income was obtained from Federal Government grants totalling £20.3 million.

OFFICIAL USE ONLY
(Classification)

Northern Groundnut Prices (UNCLASSIFIED)

The Northern Regional Marketing Board has announced a provisional guaranteed producer price for the 1955/56 groundnut season of £35.11.9d, a reduction of £1 per ton from the present year's price. The press release stated that the recent £10 fall in world price will mean a deficit of at least £1 3/4 million for the Board's current year's operations.

MISCELLANEOUS OFFICE ACTIVITIES

Interim Office Building (UNCLASSIFIED)

The move by the ConGen and USIS to the interim office building went off as scheduled; both programs were installed in the new quarters and open for business on June 28. Demolition of the old premises awaits the awarding of contracts and final approval by the municipal authorities for the closure of the road which bisects the property.

Arrival of Consul Krueger (UNCLASSIFIED)

Consul and Mrs. Herbert Krueger arrived at Lagos on direct transfer from Tunis on June 20. Mr. Krueger is replacing Consul E. R. Williams, who will depart the post on July 7.

Edward D. McLaughlin
American Consul General

Department please pouch copies to Accra, London, Leopoldville and Dakar.

OFFICIAL USE ONLY